

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, an Abstract of the Disclosure has been added as the last page of the application (page no. 24). The separate page for the Abstract of the Disclosure is enclosed herewith.

An amendment to the specification is also made to incorporate a related application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 17-32 are currently pending. The claims have been amended in order to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 26, 2004

By:

  
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

**Attachments: Abstract of the Disclosure.**